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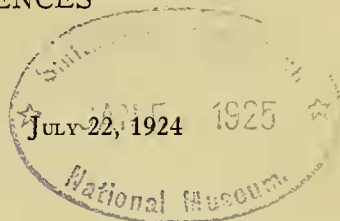
**PROCEEDINGS**

OF THE

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

FOURTH SERIES

VOL. XII, No. 31, pp. 1219-1222, text-figures 1-3



XXXI

**EXPEDITION OF THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY  
OF SCIENCES TO THE GULF OF  
CALIFORNIA IN 1921<sup>1</sup>**

**A NEW MOUSE (PEROMYSCUS SLEVINI) FROM  
THE GULF OF CALIFORNIA**

BY

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While there is in the United States National Museum at Washington, D. C., a large series of specimens of mice of the genus *Peromyscus* from the coastal regions and islands of the Gulf of California, that region had not been completely worked over when the California Academy of Sciences sent an expedition to the Gulf in 1921. It was planned that during this expedition, rodents were to be obtained, if possible, from every island of any size in the Gulf, but, unfortunately, on account of the indisposition of that member of the party who represented the Academy's Department of Mammalogy, little work of this sort was accomplished. Among the few specimens of rodents secured, however, was a mouse which appears to be of a new species, taken on Santa Catalina, a small island two or three miles wide and eight or nine miles long, 17 miles northeast of Cape San Marcial.

<sup>1</sup>A map showing all the islands, etc., visited by this Expedition will be found in Vol. XII, No. 6, of these Proceedings, copies of which can be supplied at nominal cost.

July 22, 1924

As the collections at hand do not contain sufficient material for proper comparison, this specimen was sent to Dr. E. W. Nelson, Chief of the United States Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., with a request for a diagnosis. Dr. Nelson at once became interested in the matter and turned over the specimen for critical examination to Major E. A. Goldman, who agreed that this mouse was specifically different from anything so far described. Dr. Nelson writes: "The specimen, an adult male, has been examined by Major E. A. Goldman, who reports that, as you had anticipated, it is undescribed. It belongs to the subgenus *Haplomylomys* and is most closely allied to *Peromyscus californicus*, but differs so decidedly that he regards it as specifically distinct. . . . While additional specimens are, of course, very desirable, the characters presented by the specimen you forwarded are so well marked that it may safely be assumed to represent a new species, . . ."

Major Goldman also wrote: ". . . it seems to me one of the most interesting finds that have been made on any of the islands, as the species appears to be related to *Peromyscus californicus*, which is not known to occur anywhere south of the San Pedro Martir Mountains in Lower California. Collections have been made on many of the islands and the races of *Peromyscus* found to occur were in all cases either *Peromyscus maniculatus* or *Peromyscus eremicus* groups."

The singular part of this is that the San Pedro Martir Mountains, the most southern habitat of *Peromyscus californicus*, as mentioned above, are nearly 250 miles north of Santa Catalina Island. No examples of the *californicus* group have ever been taken on the mainland of Mexico proper.

The description of this specimen, as given below, is largely compiled from Major Goldman's report, as sent to me by Dr. Nelson, and I take advantage of the opportunity to thank these two gentlemen for the assistance which they have so cordially given to me in this and other cases.

On account of the interest shown in matters pertaining to the Department of Mammalogy, and the frequent assistance in the matter of collecting specimens so willingly given by Mr. Joseph R. Slevin, Assistant Curator of the Department of Herpetology, it gives me pleasure to name this new species

*Peromyscus slevini* Mailliard, new speciesSubgenus *Haplomylomys*

(Text-figures 1-3)

*Type:* Adult male, skin and skull, No. 3935, Mus. Calif. Acad. Sci., prepared by Virgil W. Owen from an example brought aboard ship by a member of the party, June 12, 1921, from Santa Catalina Island (25° 43' 50" N. Lat.), 17 miles N.E. of Punta San Marcial, Lower California.

*General characters:* Most nearly related to *Peromyscus californicus*, and of similar size, but external measurements exceeded by large examples of *californicus*.

*Comparisons:* Color of specimen (in worn pelage) decidedly paler than in average *californicus*, and largely pale



Skull of type of *Peromyscus slevini*. Fig. 1, dorsal aspect; fig. 2, ventral aspect; fig. 3, right mandible. All natural size.

cinnamon, darker dorsally through the admixture of fine, almost black hairs: below white, with less and much lighter touch of pale cinnamon in pectoral region; feet creamy white: fore legs very pale cinnamon; tail more sharply bicolor, with ventral side nearly white and dorsal side distinctly darker than any portion of dorsum; pelage shorter and ears smaller.

Skull similar in general to that of *californicus*, but narrower and differing in detail; interparietal much less extended laterally and its anterior margin forming an angle medianly somewhat greater than a right angle, giving to the anterior half of the interparietal a decidedly rhomboidal appearance, this margin in *californicus* being either straight across the skull about at right angles to the longitudinal axis or slightly curved; nasals reaching posteriorly well beyond posterior ends

of premaxillæ, instead of the ascending branches of the premaxillæ reaching or passing beyond posterior ends of nasals; zygomata slightly heavier; dentition similar to that of *californicus*, but the maxillary and mandibular toothrows somewhat longer, and the cusplet in the posterior reentrant angle of the second upper molar larger than usually found in the occasional skulls of *californicus* exhibiting this feature; incisive foramina longer in proportion to size of skull; mandible much deeper and heavier than in *californicus* skulls of equal condylo-basilar length, and, in fact, heavier than in any of the large series of *californicus* in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences.

In comparison with *Peromyscus californicus insignis*, the race of southern California, *slevini* appearing to represent a larger form with a larger skull and relatively heavier rostrum, differing in other particulars as from *californicus*.

*Measurements:* Skin: total length, 225 mm.; tail vertebræ, 120; hind foot, 27; ear from crown, 15; ear from notch, dry, 16.5. Skull: greatest length, 31; basilar length, 23; zygomatic width, 15.6; interorbital constriction, 4.6; interparietal, 9.2x3.7; nasals, 11.5; shelf of bony palate, 4.8; palatine slits, 7; diastema, 8.2; post-palatal length, 10.2; maxillary tooth-row, 4.9.